

**THEMES FOR POETS' PEN.**

Why should the poets of these pregnant times  
Be asked to sing of wars' unholy crimes;  
Today the warrior fights because he must,  
And in his secret heart feels shame, because  
He desecrates the higher manhood's laws.  
Oh, there are worthier themes for poet's pen  
In this great hour than bloody deeds of men—  
The rights of many—not the worth of one—  
The coming issues—not the battle done.  
The awful opulence, the awful need;  
The rise of brotherhood, the fall of greed.  
The soul of man replete with God's own force—  
They cry "to heights" and not the call "to horse."  
Are there not better things in this great age  
For pen of poet or for voice of sage  
Than those old tales of killing? Song is dumb  
Only that great songs in time may come.

ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.

**WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW**

If W. A. Gaines got what he came for.  
If C. M. Ferguson is wearing rubber shoes.  
What will Speaker Henderson do about it.  
If one Daniel Jordan isn't rather sorry he sooke.  
Has the Coleridge-Taylorites secured a theater yet.  
Where will the A. M. E. General Conference go.  
Is Recorder Dancy to remain permanently mustacheless.  
When will Washington's colored business men organize.  
If a Roosevelt and Fairbanks ticket would not be a 1904 winner.  
Why not Prof. W. H. Richards for a judgeship in the Philippines.  
Will the Negro leadership of New Jersey have to be syndicated.  
If G. W. Ellis will work his economic speech off on the natives in Africa.  
Who is the administration candidate for the presidency of the Pen and Pencil Club.  
If capturing an enemy by kindness isn't a more pleasant pastime than fighting.  
When Prof. C. F. LaFon instructs his pupils in political science and diplomacy.  
Aren't some of the papers a trifle rough on the editor of The Christian Recorder.  
How many of our business men are preparing for the August convention at Richmond.  
If James E. Shepard, of North Carolina, wouldn't make a rattling good Congressman.  
Cannot the Aeolian Mandolin and Guitar Club be induced to repeat their splendid concert.  
Will our progressive citizens rally and make the People's Mercantile Association a "go."  
Why some manager hasn't been witty enough to dub Clarence White "the black Kubelik."  
If Minister Crossland took the precaution to see that his ticket had a return coupon attached.  
Will the republican majority in Congress at least give the Crumpacker resolution a decent burial.  
Why T. Thomas Fortune and C. I. Pledger invariably gravitate to Washington about the same time.  
Do the preachers know what goes on at some of the "parlor socials" given for the benefit of their churches.  
If it is contrary to good policy for a land lady to buy soap, matches or pins as long as her roomers have any.  
Why the learned Indianapolis Free man doesn't tell why the Indiana Negro is a cipher in national politics.  
Will the republican Congress really

have the courage to pass the Morrill bill or the Crumpacker resolution

Will the colored people of the country permit Director Merriam to be re-appointed without a word of protest.

Why do not our Baptist brethren set an example of Christ an unity by "cutting out" so much unnecessary fussing

Will the so-called "10 hours meeting" be able to Slaughter the other candidates for the Pen and Pencil Club presidency.

If the logic of the situation does not call for the appointment of Consul Van Horn as governor of the Danish West Indies.

If anybody ever came to this burg half so warm as the Hon. George Washington Chivis, of the United States at large.

Why some people are so ungrateful as to attend a library, enjoy its program, and then refuse to put so much as a penny into the basket.

Why is it that these "Influentia" frauds who deceive gullible women by guaranteeing an appointment, do not secure a job for themselves

When a man of Ex-Congressman White's caliber is denied decent treatment by a federal official, should not President Roosevelt be informed.

If John P. Green didn't "sholy walk about" last Sunday at Second Baptist Lyceum, on the sacrifice of the Negro by the "sugared" Congress.

How white ministers can "square" an absurd racial discrimination in churches with Christianity, as framed by the great sermon on the mount.

How will Negro orators explain the death of the Crumpacker resolution and the pig on-hoing of the Morrill bill to the black voters in the doubtful states

If a certain \$300 transaction in connection with a recent change in a local federal office, will ever be recorded among the deeds of the District of Columbia.

Why discharged government employees insist upon remaining in Washington, when opportunities are more plentiful and living so much cheaper in their home states.

Why graduates in law and medicine wear out shoe leather in Washington hunting for a measly little government job when they could go to any thriving town and hang out a shingle to their financial betterment.

Why alleged representative Negroes are so indifferent to the uplifting labors of such artistic geniuses as Mrs. I. R. Clarke and Mrs. Lottie Wilson as to make it necessary for them to depend upon white patronage for support.

**A Pleasing Innovation.**

Metropolitan A. M. E. Sunday school has introduced a new feature this year in form of graduating exercises by the members of its Normal Department. This is something unusual in the Sunday school, and is the first of the kind in the city among colored schools and probably among the whites as well. The graduating exercises were held on Thursday evening, Rev. Dr. Grimke delivered the principal address to the class. Diplomas were presented to the graduates by the pastor, R. v. D. G. Hill. Papers were read by the graduating class, and music was rendered by the school and Metropolitan choir. The audience was large.

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